

Black History 1998
Come join us with another week of Black History.



See Section C, inside.

Bring Da' Noise and Da' Funk To Portland

Award winning Broadway Show set to come to Portland Next Week.



See Metro, inside.

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The Portland Observer 25¢

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

'Titanic' Gets 14 Oscar Nominations

"Titanic," the epic account of a fateful love affair on the doomed ocean liner, captured a record-tying 14 Academy Award nominations, including a nomination for best picture, actress and director. "L.A. Confidential" and "Good Will Hunting" each received nine nominations, including best picture. The other best picture nominees were "As Good As It Gets" and, in a mild surprise, "The Full Monty."

Cohen: U.S. Coalition Growing

A senior U.S. defense official says as many as 3,000 soldiers will be sent to Kuwait as the United States prepares for a possible military attack against Iraq. U.S. military commanders in the Persian Gulf say they will have more than enough firepower to handle any contingency within days should President Clinton decide to strike Iraq.

Lewinsky Testimony Scheduled

The lawyer for Monica Lewinsky is trying to block the former White House intern's scheduled appearance before a grand jury this week. Individuals close to Ms. Lewinsky's defense said William Ginsburg was preparing to go to court to ask a judge to enforce an immunity deal or block Thursday's grand jury appearance by his 24-year-old client, who is alleged to have had an affair with President Clinton.

Aftershocks Rattle Afghan Villages

A strong aftershock rattled northeastern Afghanistan, leveling more remote villages in the earthquake-stricken area. The new tremors isolated victims from relief workers struggling to reach the snowbound region. Fresh snow blanketed the only nearby airstrip, canceling relief flights and slowing relief convoys. Aid agencies, meanwhile, raised their death toll estimate to more than 3,000. Afghan officials put the number closer to 5,000.

Survey: Marijuana Acceptance Rising

A new survey shows the number of college freshmen who support the legalization of marijuana has doubled since 1989. The study by UCLA for the Washington-based American Council on Education also shows college freshmen are more apt to favor restricting abortion rights and are less accepting of gay relationships than students in recent years. Support for marijuana legalization has grown among college freshmen from 16.7 percent in 1989 to 35.2 percent in 1997. Marijuana use among high school seniors also is rising.

China Deports Dissident to U.S.

China deported an exiled political activist to the United States. Wang Bingzhang, an important figure in China's democracy movement, ended his exile of nearly two decades last month by sneaking into China under an alias to help dissidents form an opposition party. A U.S. Embassy spokesman said Wang was put on a Los Angeles-bound plane from Shanghai yesterday.

Shout It From The Rooftops - No More Hatred!



After his talk about battling racism and bigotry, Bill Wassmuth (right) talked with Jawaea Mockabee (left) and Kathleen Saddat. Photo by Neil Heilpern

By NEIL HEILPERN

Racists and terrorists go hand in hand and they have not disappeared, an expert on hate groups told a Northeast Portland audience Thursday.

Bill Wassmuth, executive director of the Northwest coalition Against Malicious Har-

assment, told a small audience at Lutheran Inner Cities Ministries that people often see many racial incidents, where perpetrators are caught, processed through the judicial process and soon forgotten.

"These are not just separate incidents, but part of a movement," he warned, asking people to become active in one or more of the

200 diverse groups within his coalition.

Pointing to many empty chairs in the room, he noted that if a racially motivated hate crime or incident had recently happened, "this room would be packed."

But, with almost two years since a black man from the Caribbean was beat and killed by a group of young whites, the tumult has

died down and people have gone on with business as usual.

Wassmuth described how the coalition monitors hate groups, which often cloak themselves in titles and rhetoric that suggest connections with Christianity.

He said the coalition works with various communities and organizations to "end malicious harassment and violence by countering individual and organized bigotry." Numerous statistics were shared to show differing perceptions held by police and neighborhood residents.

"In Oregon, we are working with the Rural Organizing Project," he said, referring to a coalition of more than 50 groups throughout the state working to fight racial and sexual discrimination.

Wassmuth shared a video about intolerance, extremism and bigotry depicting people with racist views, the willingness to bash gays and the fear and violence perpetrated by groups such as the Ku Klux Klan and the Aryan Nation.

"These extremists believe in violence, whether it is a Nazi swastika on the doors of a synagogue or a burning cross on someone's lawn," he said, issuing a call to "respect everyone's dignity."

The talk included descriptions of numerous hate groups and individuals, including the Aryan Republican Army, the Washington State Militia, Timothy McVeigh, skinheads, the Christian Patriots, neo-Nazis, etc.

"They are reflections of a movement," he said. "And, unless we realize it is a movement, we won't adequately address the problem and we will just put out a series of brush fires" which look like isolated incidents.

These groups often call the United States government illegal and unconstitutional, and resort to their own common law courts.

Noting these groups are not usually well organized, Wassmuth outlined the core beliefs which act as a common denominator: ties to racism and bigotry; being against governmental changes which bring equal opportunities to religious, racial and sexual minorities; and a high propensity for violence.

Communities Project Children

Community Safety Nets catch Oregon families that fall between the cracks of community prevention programs and child protective services.

By KAY TORAN

It may take a village to raise a child but it takes a caring community to protect one.

Proving this mission possible, the State Office for Services to Children and Families is implementing a statewide community safety net to catch those children who fall through the cracks between community prevention programs and child-protective services.

Next month grants will be awarded to qualifying county and regional coalitions that have demonstrated their commitment and ability to weave their own community safety net.

With \$215,000 from federal Child Abuse Prevention treatment Act, the state will award 18 one-year grants, up to \$10,000 each. U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Oregon, was instrumental in obtaining this grant. Sponsors of the initiative are the Oregon Department of Human Resources, the department's State Office for Services to Children and Families and the Oregon Commission on Children and Families.

To qualify for funding, each applicant is required to develop a model and plan to implement a community safety net. Other requirements include a way to reach high-risk families through a network of community-based providers such as support groups, churches, shelters, food banks; and creating an evaluation plan to determine the effectiveness of the local safety net.

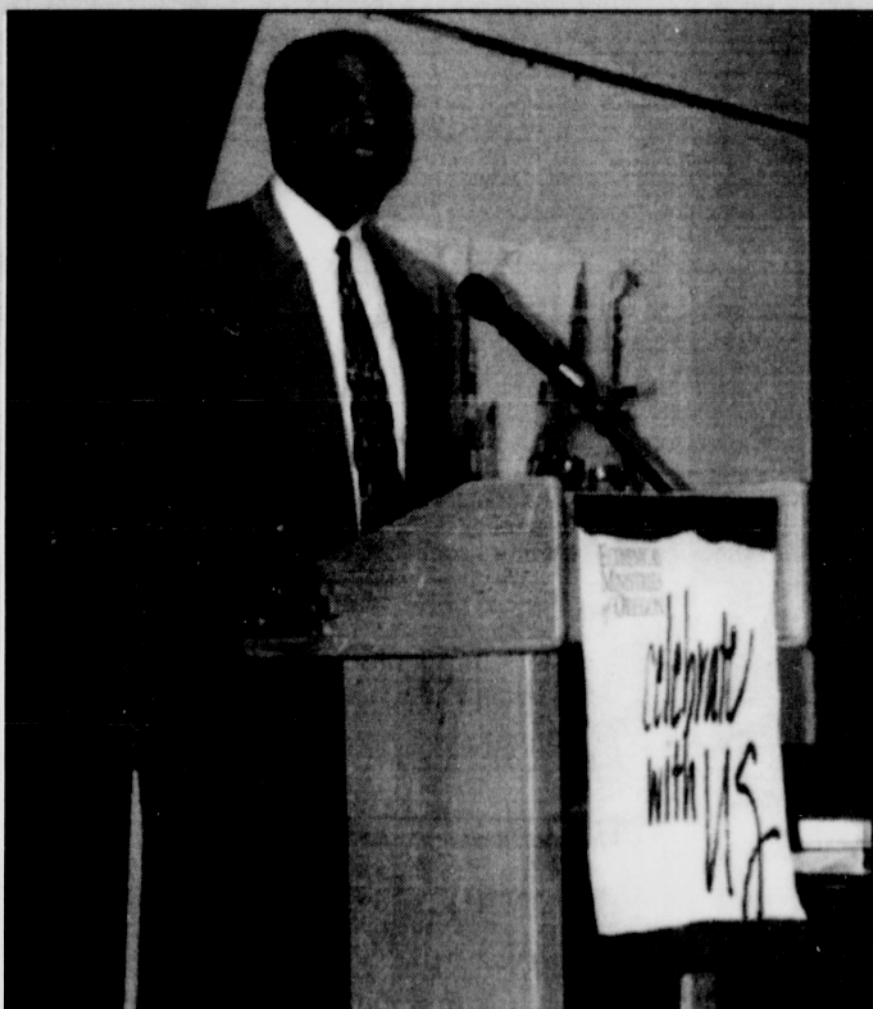
These safety nets—woven by a community, not by the state—will be able to connect exist-

ing systems to capture the many families whose children are at risk of neglect or abuse and provide them outreach and community services. These families who are not served by SCF but for whom there are serious concerns.

For example, SCF investigates a complaint about a family alleging that young children are left unsupervised and the home is unclean. SCF finds that the home is cluttered and that while the children are wandering about inside a fenced yard, the parents are aware of their whereabouts. Other possible sources of stress, however, could endanger the children and require SCF intervention and protective services. These may include a recent divorce, unemployment or domestic violence. In this case, a community safety net coordinator would contact the family and assess its members' needs. If they want support, the coordinator links them to Adult and Family Services for job services, to the Office of Medical Assistance Programs for a medical card and the Community Partnerships Team's Volunteer Program to help with the children's transportation to the doctor.

Many Oregon Communities are already interested in the safety net concept and have stated planning or modifying existing systems. Deschutes, Lane, Lincoln and Multnomah counties began collaboration on a community safety net in early 1997.

CONTINUED TO PAGE B3



Bishop A Wells of the Emmanuel Temple Full Gospel Church, accepting the Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian Award on behalf of the Renaissance Market. (Photo By M. Washington)

Renaissance Market Received Humanitarian Award

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) presented the Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian Award to the Board of Directors of Northeast Portland's Renaissance Market on February 5, 1998.

EMO chose to honor the Market for its

commitment to the Northeast Portland community through economic and social revitalization.

Bishop A Wells of the Emmanuel Temple Full Gospel Church accepted the award on behalf of the Renaissance Market.